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The Centennial Fourth.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED IN

MELROSE, MASS.,

JULY 4, 1876.

BY

ELBRIDGE H. GOSS.

Also, the Proceedings of the Day.

Melrose Jan. 10, 1877.

My dear sir:

I send you this day a copy of my address on the 11th July, Jan last - when bound ones are out I will send one of those - send this now that you may get title, name &c for your new catalogue.

I thank you for your kind commenda

P. S.

I have left a copy of the journal "The Early Wells of Massachusetts" which I will also mail you today.

E. H. G.
P.O. Box 1467
Boston.

tion of my "Melrose Memorial," sent you quite a while since by hand of our fellow-townsman Hon. D. W. Gooch. Yours,

my dear sir,

Very truly

Yours,

E. H. Sopp.

Hon. A. R. Spofford,

Washington,

D.C.

Boston.

The Centennial Fourth.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED IN

TOWN HALL,

MELROSE, MASS.,

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Privately Printed.

MELROSE,

1876.

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ADDRESS.

Mr. Chairman, and Fellow-Citizens: —

In accordance with Congressional act and Presidential proclamation, the people throughout the length and breadth of this good land of ours, are to-day assembled to make a note of passing events; to take a retrospective view of the past; to contemplate for a short time the small beginnings of our ancestors; their hardships, their struggles, their victory. And we are assembled in our spacious town-hall now, to think, to talk, to hear something about Melrose — its early days, its growth, its people, its institutions. And we are here not only in accordance with the President's proclamation, but by recommendation, also, of our own, individual town, through its Board of Selectmen. These towns of ours: do we appreciate them as we ought? Do we fully realize what little independent kingdoms they are, governed and controlled in every minute particular by the people? Nothing like them was known before our own New England was settled. Neither England nor any other country had known such independencies, such self-governed municipalities as have been, and are ours. Virginia, and all the rest of the colonies, excepting New England, were governed in a different manner. They had their counties, towns, hundreds, plantations and parishes; but the "municipality in New England was the simplest of all the municipal forms and the best adapted to develop the republican idea." Referring to our early town system, George William Curtis says: "Each town was a small but perfect republic, as solitary and secluded in the New England wilderness as the Swiss

cantons among the Alps. No other practicable human institution has been devised or conceived to secure the just ends of local government so felicitous as the town meeting." The choosing of selectmen and other officers at annual town meetings was first adopted by Massachusetts: and to Charlestown — of which we were originally a part — belongs the honor of establishing the first Board of Selectmen, in 1635, six years after its settlement. Dorchester, two years before, had tried a plan which approached this idea, but the inhabitants of Charlestown matured and consummated it, and adopted an order, the original of which is still preserved, with the signatures, and of which the following is a copy; and a fac-simile of which may be found in Frothingham's "History of Charlestown:"—

"An order made by the inhabitants of Charlestowne at a full meeting for the government of the Town by Selectmen.

"In consideration of the great trouble and chearg of the inhabitants of Charlestowne by reason of the frequent meeting of the townsmen in generall and y^t^ by reason of many men meeting things were not so easely brought unto a joynt issue. It is therefore agreed by the sayde townesmen joyntly that these eleven men whose names are written on the other syde, (w^th^ the advice of Pastor and Teacher desired in any case of conscience,) shall entreat of all such business as shall conscerne the Townsmen, the choice of officers excepted, and what they or the greater part of them shall conclude of the rest of the towne willingly to submit unto as their owne propper act, and these 11 to continue in this employment for one yeare next ensuing, the date hereof being dated this: 10^th^ of February 1634 (1635.)

"In witness of this agreement we whose names are under written have set o'r hands."

Soon afterward the General Court embodied this idea in its legislation, and provided for general town government. Thenceforward, from that day to this, year after year, the people of the towns have met in open town-meeting, and with free discussion upon all questions, elected their Board of Selectmen, and other officers, and transacted all other necessary business. In short, the town-meeting ever has been, and now is, the true glory of New England; and before

the Revolution, it was, indeed, "the nursery of American Independence."

Long before our independence was achieved, the Scripture, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof," had been cast into a certain bell,— destined to become a most famous one,— and placed upon the State House in Philadelphia. True, "prophetic voices concerning America" had spoken as early as 1752, when this bell was cast. Bishop Berkeley, Samuel Sewall, the Marquis D'Argenson, Turgot, and others, had plainly predicted the time when the colonies would be free: the latter saying in 1750, "Colonies are like fruits, which hold to the tree only until their maturity: when sufficient for themselves, they did that which Carthage afterwards did, — *that which some day America will do.*" And it came to pass that this very bell, which had been broken and recast twice, and been in constant use since 1752, with this heaven-born inscription upon it, should, one hundred years ago, declare Liberty, and ring out to the world the glad tidings, that a new nation had "sprung into existence, proclaiming in language understood by every ear, All Men are Born Free and Equal." A century has passed since the declaration thus heralded, and which we have heard read to-day, became a reality: and we are now enjoying the blessings then fought for and established: and, at this moment, almost every town, city, and hamlet is commemorating the event. To-day we celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of that all-important, that eventful epoch in our history. It has been said that centennial celebrations are "strikings of the great clock of time, which admonish us to ponder upon the teachings of the past, and rightly appreciate the responsibilities of the present." This *is*, indeed, the glorious fourth of July: the centennial fourth of July! and are we not excusable if we indulge in a little self-glorification? But, to do this the most thoroughly, the most satisfactorily, it seems to me, it will be necessary for each to trace the rise and growth of their respective towns, from their small beginnings to their present stand-point.

The Congressional act calling us together, suggests only

"an historical sketch of the town from its formation." Strictly adhering to this, we should have nothing to do, now, except with events which have occurred from 1850 to the present time. We occupy too interesting a spot, this domain has been too long settled, to be thus summarily dismissed.

The territory of Melrose originally belonged to Charlestown, which was settled in 1629, and was a far more extensive region than now, as it included Malden, Woburn, Stoneham, Burlington, Somerville, a large part of Medford, a small part of Cambridge and Reading. Difficulties concerning the boundaries of the different towns arose very early and were settled by the General Court. July 2, 1633. "Mystic side" was granted to Charlestown, when it was ordered that the "ground lyeing betwixte the North [Malden] Ryv^r & the creeke on the north side of M^r Mauacks [Maverick's] & soe vpp into the country, shall belong to the inhabitants of Charlton [Charlestown]. As "up into the country" did not determine how far the line should go, another order, passed March 3, 1636, was more definite: "That Charles Town bounds shall run eight myles into the country from their meeteing howse, if noe other bounds intercept." This undoubtedly covered our own Melrose territory. As Charlestown increased, its inhabitants crossed over the Mystic River as early as 1640, possibly before, and in that year a mill was erected near Mt. Prospect, by Thomas Coitmore. In 1649, this Mystic side was set off by the General Court and named Malden, from a town in England bearing the same name, whence some of the early settlers came. Johnson, in his "Wonder Working Providence" says that the "foundation stones" of Malden were laid "by certain persons who issued out of Charles Town, and indeed had her whole structure within the bounds of this more elder Town, being severed by the broad spreading river of Mistick the one from the other, whose troublesome passage caused the people on the North side of the river to plead for Town priviledges within themselves." The act of incorporation was brief, as compared with one passed now-a-days. It was as follows: "Upon the petition of Mistick side men, they are granted

to be a distinct towne, & the name thereof to be called Mauldon." This whole region of Malden above the settlement was a dense forest and covered "with stately timber," say the Charlestown records; "and all the country round about an uncouth wilderness full of timber." It was the home of the Indian and the wild beast. It has been said that when the first settlers at Boston sent out an exploring party, they came as far as the line of small hills below us in Malden, and turning back reported that beyond the hills was a dense wilderness, and that probably nobody would ever penetrate the jungles. If it were possible that those same original explorers, could again come out from Boston, and, leaving Malden behind them, move slowly up the valley, emerge from behind "Island Hill" and "Hog Island," behold the beautiful landscape spread out before them, and then on to the first resting place, right here, they would be somewhat amazed. No Indians! no wild beasts! Nothing but harmless Melroseians! I think that this time they would not, as then, return and report that this was a "waste howling wilderness."

When Malden became a town, in 1649, all its northern part (the territory we now occupy) was a tract of over two thousand acres of undivided land; and came to be known as "The Commons." In time it was very desirable both as woodland and pasturage, and a variety of action was taken by the town looking to its preservation and utility; and in Town Meeting, Nov. 20, 1694, it was "Voted, That ye common shall be divided: bottom and top, yt is, land and wood"; and, Nov. 26, a committee of three, Maj. Wm. Johnson, Capt. John Smith and Capt. John Brown, reported to the town the manner in which it should be done. A committee of seven were chosen to proceed with the division. It was ordered that this committee "employ an artis to lay out the lots." Every lot was to "run 82 poles in length," and there was to be allowed "two poles in breadth between every range of lots for highways." "Every proprietors name to be written distinctly, and ye lots be well shuffled together, and one man chose by the town to draw them out of a bag. The first name drawn to have the first lot."

This division was thus made in 1695, when seventy-four freeholders then in Malden received their respective allotments.

That this part of Malden known as "the Commons" was settled before this division of land was made in 1695, is very evident from the order laying out the first road through Malden by the General Court, in 1653, hereafter to be referred to; and in the Malden records at this time, March 26, 1694, there is a report by a committee "to run lines between the Common & proprietors lands," as follows: "Run y^e^ bounds Round Reedy pond y^e^ bounds are first a great buttenwood tree before Joseph Lines dore — and so bounded Round with seuerall trees marked with letter C next common." This "Reedy Pond" is supposed to be a small pond very near the boundary between Melrose and Malden; and there are those now living who remember to have heard it thus called, and who also remember the large buttonwood tree referred to. Another vote passed May 18, 1694, was "that Samuel Greenshall Injoy his hous and y^e^ land y^t^ stands on and so much land about It as y^e^ Commite shall se cause to lay to It": clearly showing that a Samuel Green had a house, and lived here thus early. A year later, when the division was made, in speaking of lot number 64, the phrase is used "part east against Redding Rhode & part on y^e^ west of y^e^ Greens farm." And it was not long after this division before a number of other families came here and settled; so that we had on our territory at the beginning of the year 1700, or very soon after, the families of six or seven different names.

In later years, as time rolled on, we were no longer "The Commons," but known as North Malden, and so remained until the year 1850, when, after several Legislative hearings, and a long struggle, an act incorporating the town of Melrose, was approved by Gov. George N. Briggs, on the 3d of May. Three years later, in 1853, after another severe contest, a part of Stoneham was set off to Melrose, giving us the greater portion of what we call the "Highlands"; and we now have a territory, roads and all, of nearly or quite thirty-five hundred square acres. Our name, Melrose, was

adopted at the suggestion of our townsman, William Bogle, Esq., who had then been living here a few years, coming before the Boston and Maine Railroad was built, and when he had to go back and forth by the stage-coach, which commenced running between Reading and Boston in 1798. Mr. Bogle evidently had two or three objects in view in offering us our name; — one, a sweet sounding one, that had not been in common use, we being the first to adopt it in our country; another, as a memory of his native land; and still another, because of the great resemblance of our town to Melrose in Scotland: taking the "Abbey" out of the scene, and the similarity of the two places, the situation of the surrounding hills and the valley, is very striking.

OLD FAMILIES AND HOMESTEADS.

Although Melrose as a town is young in years, her territory has been occupied over two centuries. We have houses that are, parts of them, very nearly if not quite two hundred years old; possibly older. Here originally lived the Lyndes, the Greens, the Uphams, the Barretts, the Spragues, the Howards, and the Vintons. At a later date, but still far enough back to be called old settlers, some before, and some about the time of the Revolution, there came the Pratts, the Grovers, the Emersons, the Edmundses, the Herrings, and perhaps others; a very large part of these came from families that originally settled in Malden centre. Then still later the Larrabees, the Boardmans, the Hemmenways, the Tainters, the Fullers, and some others came to North Malden. Mr. Aaron Green very distinctly remembers, at a period about sixty years ago, when there were only thirty-five homesteads, all unpainted, in Melrose, and, recently, he very kindly pointed out to me where they stood, or are still standing. The different branches of the earliest settlers I have mentioned occupied a very large share of these homesteads. This was thirty years before the Boston and Maine Railroad was built, which was opened through Melrose in 1845.

As we examine the voting and tax-lists of to-day, we see the reason for so long an array of the names of Upham, Lynde, Green, Sprague, Barrett, Vinton, and some others

mentioned, nearly all of which have streets named in their memory. They were the original, early settlers of this beautiful spot. Here they lived and had their farms, their homesteads; and after generations, leaving the old homes, built new ones, many of which are still standing, venerable and antique. How changed the scene to-day in this community, as compared with those early days, or even a hundred years ago. Where then was only the few old fashioned homesteads, distant neighbors to each other, with, perhaps, fifty souls all told, now a thriving town of over four thousand inhabitants; then the quiet and seclusion of a thoroughly rural and farm life, now the activity of a growing and industrious community.

It is extremely interesting to think about these old families of ours. "The sacred tie of *family*, reaching backward and forward, binds the generations of men together, and draws out the plaintive music of our being from the solemn alternation of cradle and grave," says Everett. I had intended, if possible, in a somewhat particular manner to trace out the farms and homesteads of most or all of the original settlers of Melrose; this would require time and much patient research of musty documents and records — and it could not be done in the short time allotted me for my task. I can only touch upon these matters, and give you a few items which I have gathered concerning them. A partial collection of materials for such a history and description has been made by our townsman, Artemas Barrett, Esq., who intends to finish the search and give us the result if his life is spared long enough. It is a difficult undertaking, requiring much patience, research and leisure; our hope is that his desire and intention may come to a successful fruition.

The Lyndes are one of the oldest of our families, and have owned, in former times, nearly all of the southern part of Melrose. They all descended from Ensign Thomas Lynde, who came to Malden soon after its incorporation, and was the eldest son of Thomas, who came over and settled at Charlestown, becoming a freeman in 1634. On the old road, now Washington Street, there stands the oldest of the Lynde houses; and it is, also, the oldest house in

Melrose, known as the Jabez, or Jabe Lynde house. Tradition says that it is over two hundred years of age; and this may be so, for we shall see that this territory was occupied by the Lynde family as early as 1653; whether so or not, there are many here who remember its old fashioned style; its little diamond paned windows with leaden sashes, and its wide front door through which its huge fire logs of the early days were drawn. A few years ago this house was altered over, and is now known as the "Grundy house." Near by, back from this same street, is the Jonathan Lynde homestead, which is very old indeed, and by some has been thought the oldest of the two. Jonathan died a few years ago at the age of 85, and his brother William is now living there, at the age of 83. In this old house was born our townsman, Mr. Aaron Green, whose father once tilled this farm for a number of years. The Joseph Lynde house, a large portion of it, on the plain yonder,—that place that ever looks so charming, its buildings so clean, white and beautiful,—is a very old one. In the cellar of this house, there is, indeed, a relic of "ye olden time," which I have examined. It is an oak log, a little larger and taller than a barrel, scooped out like a mortar, with an iron hoop around the top; the pestle is gone. In this the corn was pounded and ground. As the Coitmore mill was built in 1640, and was not over two miles distant from any of the Lynde houses, it would seem as if this must have been in use before that time; possibly economy caused them to use it, notwithstanding the nearness of the mill, so that it may not be so very ancient; however that may have been, no one seems to be able to say; and I only know, that there it is, a curious relic of by-gone days. The Warren Lynde house, a little way this side, on Main Street, stands on the site of the old homestead, in which he and his brothers and sisters, — one of the sisters being the mother of Artemas Barrett, — were born; as was also their father, Benjamin, before them. The old house was burned many years since and the present one built. Mr. Lynde tells me that an old cellar-hole existed on the road, now Sylvan Street, up to the time when the Wyoming Cemetery was laid out, when it was filled; he

has ever understood this to be where lived one of the early Lynde families, but does not know which one; it was not far from the old original road of 1653. The John Lynde house, on "Louisburg Square," at the junction of Lebanon, Grove and Lynde Streets, was built by John's father, Joseph, considerably over a hundred years ago, and is now in good condition; and the magnificent elm tree standing in front of it was set out by the builder of the house very nearly a century ago. The oldest living representatives of the various Lynde families, is the William Lynde already mentioned, who is 83 years of age.

The ancestor of all the Greens in Melrose was Thomas Green, who settled in Malden as early as 1651. He very early owned a farm of sixty-three acres at the "Highlands," and it was probably this farm, then in the hands of his son Samuel, that is referred to as being exempted when "the Commons" were divided in 1695. However early the original Thomas may have owned it, from that day to this, a portion of the same farm has been in the possession of his descendants. His grandson John lived here when he died in 1736. How long he had been here I do not know, but in his will he left to his son John "my dwelling house and barn, and the land adjoining, that lyeth on the west side of the country road that leadeth from Malden to Reading, that was my grandfather's"; and to his son Jonah, or Jonas, "all my land on the east side of the country road aforesaid." This old homestead was on what was known as "Back Lane," which led from the old road spoken of to Stoneham, before the county road from Stoneham to Lynn was built. John's property was inherited by his son John,—the Johns were thick in the Green family,—who built and lived in what has been known for many years as the "John Green House," on Franklin Street near Main, which still stands, though moved from its original site, back from the street, and modernized. The house of Jonas Green, son of the Jonas with whom the land was divided in 1753, still stands in its original condition, on the right hand side of Main Street, over "Reading Hill," almost to the line between Wakefield and Melrose. The oldest descendant of the

Green family living with us to-day, is Mrs. Nancy Green Emerson,— mother of Mr. James G. Emerson,— who is now 87 years of age.

The Barretts are one of our oldest Melrose families. Deacon Jonathan Barrett, son of James, who was born in Malden in 1644, and grandson of James who first settled in Charlestown in 1635, came to Melrose about 1705, and built his homestead on or near "Barrett Lane," now Porter Street. His grandson, Joseph, built on the present Porter place, and his homestead still forms a part of the residence of Mr. Charles Porter. His son, Captain Jonathan Barrett, bought the house on Vinton Street, now known as the "Mountain House," in which he commenced the manufacture of shoes, and was the first and only one who carried on that business until he died, when he was succeeded by the late Mr. George Emerson. Capt. Barrett was the father of Artemas Barrett, Esq., who is with us to-day, and who was born in this same old "Mountain House," as were also others of the Barretts, among them Mr. Jonathan Barrett, also with us. An uncle of Artemas, Peter Barrett, was the father of Augustus, until recently one of our citizens, now of Claremont, N. H. The oldest living representative of these families now with us, is Mr. Charles Barrett, aged 70.

The Sprague are one of our early families. In 1629, three brothers, Ralph, Richard, and William Sprague settled at Charlestown, and their names are first on a list of the inhabitants for that year. John, the oldest son of Ralph, settled in Malden, near the Coitmore mill, which was for many years in possession of the Sprague family. The youngest son of John, Phineas, came to Melrose not far from the year 1700, as his son, Phineas, was born here that year; and the homestead was on what is now Foster Street, and the residence of Liberty Bigelow, Esq., stands on its site. The grandson of our first Phineas, also named Phineas, was the Revolutionary patriot of whom so many anecdotes are told, and succeeded to the old farm and homestead on Foster Street. In later years, previous to the ownership of Mr. Bigelow, it was known as the Cotton Sprague place, Cotton being a son of Phineas. The old house still standing at the

corner of Foster and Vinton Streets, near the Barrett homestead, was known as the Jonathan Sprague place, Jonathan being another son of Phineas, and brother of Cotton. Here in this neighborhood, around the Barrett homestead and manufactory, was situated "the village," where, fifty years and more ago, the people from different parts of the town would congregate for social chat and pleasure. The nearest house to "the village," after the Sprague houses just mentioned, was that of John Larrabee, — the great-grandfather of our present Town Clerk, John Larrabee, Esq., — situated on Vinton Street, now the residence of Mr. Smith W. Nichols.

Many interesting things might be told concerning the third Phineas Sprague who lived on Foster Street. Mr. Artemas Barrett has many of his original papers, some of which have been printed. His account of the fearfully dark day, from a diary he kept, will only now be given.

"Frida May the 19th. 1780.

"This day was the most Remarkable day that ever my eyes beheld the air had bin full of smoak to an uncommon degree So that wee could scairce see a mountain at two miles distance for 3 or 4 days Past till this day after Noon the smoak all went off to the South at sunset a very black bank of a cloud appeared in the south and west the Nex morning cloudey and thundered in the west about ten oclock it began to Rain and grew vere dark and at 12 it was allmost as dark as Nite so that wee was obliged to lite our candels and Eate our dinner by candel lite at Noon day but between 1 and 2 oclock it grew lite again but in the Evening the cloud caim over us again the moon was about the full it was the darkest Nite that ever was seen by us in the world."

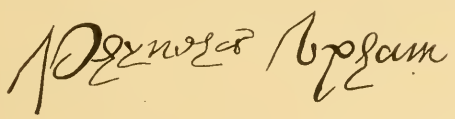
This agrees with the old couplet in point of time and fact:—

"In 1780, the nineteenth day of May,
Will ever be remembered as being the dark day."

Capt. Phineas Sprague, the fifth generation of that name, who died February 9th, 1869, at the age of 92, was a grandson of the Phineas of whom we have been speaking, and his father's homestead was on Porter Street; and his brother,

Richard Price Sprague, is still with us at the age of 80. Capt. Sprague's homestead still stands at the junction of Main and Lebanon Streets, opposite L Pond, and was built in 1810. We had other Spragues here, also. Samuel Sprague, who served on our quota during the late Rebellion, and now with us, descended from another branch of the same original family. The oldest representative of these families, is Mrs. Mary Sprague Boardman, now living on Main Street, at the age of 89.

The following is a fac-simile of the signature of Lieut. Phineas Upham, of Malden, son of John Upham who came to this country and was admitted freeman in 1635, and settled in Malden about the year 1650. Lieut. Upham was a very active officer in "King Philip's War," conducting many scouting parties, and was severely wounded at the great battle at "Narragansett Fort," Dec. 19, 1675, two hundred years ago, from the effects of which wound he died the following year. This signature I traced from the original document at the State House, which he signed, together with a number of other commissioned officers, a few days before this fight, and which they sent "To the Hon. Governor and Council Now Sitting at Boston," in which they made a request for company quartermasters, horses, trumpeters, &c. From this Lieut. Upham descended all the Malden and Melrose Uphams; the first one coming to this part of the town being Phineas Upham, a grandson of the Lieutenant; and he came not far from the year 1700, and his homestead was undoubtedly on Upham Hill, where many of his descendants have ever since resided; there being, at the present time, on Upham Street, not less than three of the Upham homesteads, the houses of which must be at least a hundred years old; and two of them, I think, those of Asa and Jesse, considerably more than that.



The old house, which so many of us remember, that stood on the corner of Green and Howard Streets, at "Norrisville," now all gone but the stone door-slab, was built by Phineas

Upham, son of the Phineas who first came here, not far from the year 1730. The lot on which it was built was a part of lot No. 37 of the division of 1695, and was bought by his father of Joseph Wilson, in 1703. The widow of the Upham who built this house married Israel Cook, in 1744, who here kept the first store in this town, and who was granted a license to sell rum, by the General Court, as early as 1759, and that article was continued to be sold here up to, and beyond the time of the Revolution, if we judge from the story of the two Lynn "minute men,"— Hadley and Wellman, — who, filled with the spirit of patriotism, were on their way to Lexington, stopped here and became filled with another kind of spirit; then went on their way and were both killed. In this house was used the first stove in our town, and as a whole the old house had an interesting history, but it is now a thing of the past. We still have with us many of the Uphams, the oldest living representatives being Freeman, George, and Eri, all of different families, and all about 65 years of age.

A very interesting part of the early history of Melrose centers on Upham hill, on which so many of our early families congregated, and which still is one of the pleasantest parts of our pleasant town.

On a road leading by the present Parker place, are the cellar holes of two of the houses of two of our early families, the Herrings and the Edmundses. On Mr. Francis Hemmenway's place, corner of East and Porter Streets, there used to be, in years gone by, an Indian wigwam, which stood there for a long while; and Mr. Hemmenway tells, with much delight, of an "Indian Muster" which once took place here, about the year 1820; and which, he says, was the "biggest day Melrose ever saw," when the town was literally covered with people from Reading Hill to where now stands Masonic Hall. Mr. Hemmenway represented an Indian squaw, and carried Charles Porter on his back as a papoose. The militia, about three hundred in number, were commanded by the late Capt. Thomas Emerson, of Wakefield, a brother of our Mr. William Emerson, soon to be spoken of.

Thomas and Benoni Vinton, — direct descendants of the

original settler, John Vinton, of Lynn, who came to this country not far from 1643, — settled in Melrose, the part then Stoneham, about the year 1742. They married sisters, Hannah and Mary Green. Thomas Vinton left three sons, Thomas, Timothy, and Ezra, all of whom had farms at the Highlands, and the homesteads are still standing; that of the oldest brother, Thomas, is the first dwelling on Tremont Street south of the Highland Chapel, and still in good condition; that of Timothy, on Ashland Street, between the residence of Mr. Charles A. Messenger and Franklin Street, although it has been turned round and altered; this was the homestead of the father, Thomas, and must be considerably over one hundred years old, as he died in 1763; and the homestead of Ezra, on Vinton Street, a large and imposing house in its day, is just south of the residence of Horatio N. Perkins, Esq. These three brothers lived side by side, on the old county road from Stoneham to Lynn, which was discontinued in part when Franklin Street was built. They were all in Capt. Samuel Sprague's company of "minute men," which marched from Stoneham to Lexington when the alarm was given. They were all well-to-do farmers. Timothy, who never married, but lived with his mother on the old homestead, until she died in 1804, lived to be 92 years of age, and died in 1836, an abject miser. Turning his farm productions into money, he would hide it in all sorts of out-of-the-way places; burying some of it in the ground, a part of which was undoubtedly lost; 500 Spanish dollars, old and tarnished, found in his house, were divided among his relatives immediately after his funeral. Thomas, left a son Thomas, who died in 1841, aged 70, of whom it is said he never left his farm for forty years, and never visited Boston but once, although living so near it. He left a very singular will, bequeathing his property in a curious manner to the Baptist Churches of Wakefield and Malden.

Mary Vinton, a sister of these three brothers, Thomas, Timothy, and Ezra, married William Emerson, the grandfather of Isaac and George, who are with us to-day. Mr. Emerson was born in Wakefield, lived awhile in Woburn, but spent most of his days in Melrose, where he died in

1848, aged 88 years. He enlisted in the Revolutionary army at the early age of 18, and the relation of his experience in that service to his children and grandchildren was always very entertaining. His first homestead "stood near the old well with a narrow cartway between the house and well," says his son, the Rev. Warren Emerson. This house was on a lane, now Emerson street, on the site of the house of the late Amos P. Lynde, where Mr. Emerson kept a public house for a number of years, and when Mr. Lynde built he converted the old inn into a barn, and it still stands on the corner of Lebanon and Emerson Street, now a dwelling house. In this old public house all of Mr. Emerson's children were born, excepting Isaac, the oldest son, who was born in Woburn. His last homestead, on the corner of Main and Emerson Streets, was built in 1807, is still standing, and into which the family moved on the 7th of November. This date was written with chalk by the youngest son, Warren, on the day the family took possession, on a rafter in the eastern end of the garret, and it remained there until within a few years, when it was obliterated with whitewash.

Martha Vinton, another sister of these three brothers, married John Pratt, who lived in the south-eastern part of the town, on what is now Lebanon Street, who built a house still standing, and occupied by his son Charles Pratt. There are other interesting items concerning other of the Vintons, but they cannot now be given. Many of the descendants are still with us, and the oldest living representative is Mrs. Phebe Vinton Lynde, now 85 years of age.

There are other families and homesteads in Melrose that ought to be spoken of in a sketch of this kind, as they have entertaining histories; but there is only time to allude to one more, the Howards. On Howard Street, near where the old Cook house stood, still stands the old Deacon Samuel Howard house, built about the time the Cook or Upham house was, in 1730. Here stood until quite recently the old-fashioned "well-sweep" and its well. There are still left two of these "well-sweeps," one on Porter Street, on Mr. Hemmenway's place, and the other on the George Upham homestead, on Upham Street, and long may it be before they

shall disappear. In the Amos Howard homestead, on the corner of Porter and Lebanon Streets, and which was standing during the Revolution, a large family of children were born, among them the late Mrs. Isaac Emerson — Atalanta Howard — and Mr. Nathaniel Howard — "Uncle Nat." The oldest living representative of the Howards, now with us, is Mrs. Mary Howard Wilson, 93 years of age.

These original families, of which we have been speaking, living here in the seclusion they did, intermarried to a very great extent, and it would be pleasant to trace some of these relationships.

ROADS.

The first road, and only one for many years which passed through Melrose, was laid out by order of the General Court, two and a quarter centuries ago, at a session held Sept. 10, 1653. Some of the names of persons and places here mentioned, will be recognized as Melrose ones: "Thomas Marshall, John Smyth & John Sprague being chosen to lay out the country high way betweene Reddinge & Winnesemett [Chelsea,] do lay it out as follows: from Redding towne, through Maldon bounds, betwixt the pond & John Smyths land, [this pond evidently is the present "Smith's Pond," in Wakefield, as Malden bounds then extended thus far, and until Stoneham was set off in 1725,] & so by the east side of Mr Joseph Hills land, to New Hockley Hole, & so in the old way by the Cow Pen, [I am unable to identify the locality of "New Hockley Hole" or the "Cow Pen;" they were probably near Greenwood or the Highlands,] & thence along on the east side of Thomas Coitmores lott, by Ele Pond, in the old way, to Thomas Lynds land, then through the first field, & so by the field by his howse, from thence, on the old way, by Maldon meeting howse, through the stony swampe, &c. * * * the sd way to be fower pole broade, in good ground, & six or eight where need requires." "The old way" so often referred to in this order, means the old, crooked, Indian or bridle path or trail, in use before this date, winding hither and thither, going around this hill, shunning that swamp or bog, and over which the early traveller wended his way between Reading and Chelsea.

Our L Pond is here spoken of, and we see that Malden then had a meeting-house, four years after its incorporation.

Within a few days I have been over most of this old road, a large share of which is now discontinued, but is still, in many parts, quite distinct. Main Street was laid out in 1806, and built soon after, and portions of the old road then and previously — as some parts of the original road had been superceded by the one in use when Main Street was opened — abandoned as a highway, became absorbed by private interests.

Beginning at the boundary line between Wakefield and Melrose, this original road followed the present Main Street a short distance, crossing it twice, and leaving it for a little way, before reaching the brow of Reading Hill; thence through the small woods parallel with the present street, still clearly defined, under the L of the Barber house, and on to Green Street, near where that street leaves Main; thence through the whole of Green Street, by L Pond, through Lebanon Street to Louisburg Square, down Lynde Street, to near where the "Dolly Upham" house now stands, when it left that street and went back of, or on the east side of "Boston Rock," following somewhat nearly the course of the present Linwood Avenue, almost to Sylvan Street, crossing through the woods just before reaching the latter street; thence diagonally across Wyoming Cemetery to its southwest corner; thence over hill and dale, through the woods to Forest Street, entering that street near the old Jacob Pratt house; thence to Main Street, skirting Waite's Mount. That part of the old road from Wyoming Cemetery to Forest Street is remarkably well preserved and clearly defined, and as easily driven over to-day as ever; and the rocks in the wheel-ruts show the abrasion of the old time usage very distinctly. After diligent inquiry I am clearly of the opinion that the old Pratt house just referred to, on Forest Street, must stand on or near the site of the old "howse" of Thomas Lynde spoken of in the order of 1653, as also of the Joseph Lynde's — Joseph being, perhaps, son of Thomas — house, which with its land was exempted by the Committee in the division of "the Commons" in 1695.

Afterwards, but when I cannot ascertain, the road just described was straightened somewhat from Lebanon Street, by passing through the whole of Lynde Street, to Main, by Masonic Hall, leaving it soon after, passing back of the Grover house, by Mr. Alvin Lynde's, and thence near the foot of Boston Rock, across the meadow, back of the Joseph Lynde barns, through the pines to Main Street again, somewhere near "Island Hill." On a plan of Malden, surveyed by Peter Tufts, Jr., of Medford, in 1795, the only roads laid down in what was then North Malden, are, the main road as last described, called the "Reading Road," and a "Stoneham Road," which leaves this near where our Masonic Hall now is; this is what is now our Wyoming Avenue, Hurd, Cottage and Vinton Streets, then hardly anything more than a cart-way. About this time "Upham Lane," our present Upham Street, was built through to Chelsea line, a portion of which town, at that time, extended up to Reading, between Malden and Saugus; and a few years before this, what is now Howard Street was built through to Saugus, making a continued county road from Stoneham to Lynn. For many years these were our only streets or roads. Foster Street was the first cross street built, a few years before the railroad was opened; soon after, Wyoming Avenue, named by Mr. Bogle, and other streets were laid out; and after this, as our town increased in population, new ones have been opened year by year, until now, when we have nearly thirty miles of streets, and all in very good condition.

CHURCHES.

Our forefathers had to wend their way to "middle-town" on the Sabbath-day to attend public worship, as they did also on election days to vote. About the year 1813, the first preaching service was held in the old district school-house, near the corner of the old road, now Lebanon Street, and "Upham Lane," now Upham Street, the only school-house then in North Malden. In 1815 a Methodist Episcopal Church was formed, which continued to hold its service in this house until 1818, when a church edifice was built on the green at the junction of Main and Green Streets, which,

quaintly shaped and arranged little affair, many now living remember. This was occupied by that society until 1842, when a new and larger one was built on the same spot, and dedicated Nov. 30, of that year, and which was used until 1857, when it was sold, moved down near the corner of Main and Essex Streets, became "Concert Hall," and perished in the flames of Nov. 30, 1875, with Boardman's Block, just thirty-three years from the day it was dedicated. The Society then in 1857, built the edifice now in use on Main Street, which was dedicated April 1. Wright says, in his sermon of 1831, "Two individuals, formerly members of this church, are now successfully engaged in publishing the tidings of salvation to their fellowmen." This refers to the Rev. Frederick Upham, and Rev. Warren Emerson, both born in Melrose, and still preaching; the former in Fairhaven, Mass., and the latter in West Thompson, Conn. The present pastor is Rev. Sanford B. Sweetser.

About the year 1828, while this Society, the Methodist Episcopal, was in the old church at the junction of Main and Green Streets, there arose a very serious trouble, beginning with a disaffection with certain members, who became displeased with the form of church government, and a division took place, and a new church was formed, called the "Protestant Methodist," often-times the "Reformed Methodists." This new society bought the old district school-house, and moved it down to Main Street, near the site of the present Baptist Chapel, and commenced their labors.

A volume might be written, giving a history of this division; the trials and troubles, the heart-burnings, anecdotes, the attempts to re-unite, and other incidents; possibly, some day the story may be told. There were those living here in those days, — some are living to-day, — who were so ungracious, so irreverent, as to call this school-house church the "Duck Pen;" and in contradistinction, the mother-church-building, the "Cider Mill." In the year 1841, the Protestant Methodist Society built a new edifice, and the "Duck Pen" was moved to the corner of Foster and Myrtle Streets, altered into a tenement house, and was burned with the Orthodox Church, Feb. 17, 1869. This society continued

worshipping in this edifice until January 1, 1856, when it was merged into the First Baptist Church, which society continued to use the meeting-house, with some occasional repairs and alterations, until July, 1873, when it was sold to the Catholics, and succeeded by the neat, brick chapel now in use, and which was dedicated, Nov. 17, 1874. Rev. Napoleon B. Thompson is the present pastor.

The next church, the Orthodox Congregational, was formed July 11, 1848, and its first edifice on Foster Street, dedicated May 17, 1849. Previous to this, preaching services had been held in the parlor of Dr. Levi Gould, in the small house opposite the present Methodist Church. Dr. Gould was the first male member of an Orthodox Church that came to Melrose. Soon afterward meetings were held at the house of Dea. Jonathan Cochran, and then at the centre depot of the Boston and Maine R. R. This church building on Foster Street was remodelled and enlarged in 1858, and destroyed by fire, Feb. 17, 1869. The new and handsome edifice now in use by that church, was dedicated Oct. 26, 1870, and the present pastor is the Rev. Albert G. Bale.

The next, the Universalist Society, was formed in 1849, and the meetings held in "Academy Hall," then standing on Berwick Street, and afterwards moved to Main Street, where it became "Lyceum Hall," and was destroyed by fire, Aug. 21, 1870. The church building on Essex Street, now in use by that Society, was dedicated in 1851, and Rev. William A. Start is now the pastor.

The next Society formed here was Trinity Church — Episcopal — May 20, 1857, its first service being held at the residence of Mr. Samuel Rice, on Lake Avenue, now that of A. V. Lynde, Esq.; after that in Waverley Hall; and their church was erected on Emerson Street, and dedicated in the fall of 1859. Rev. Henry A. Metcalf is the present rector.

The next and sixth church formed in Melrose, was the Unitarian Congregational, which was organized July 17, 1867, and their chapel, on Emerson Street, was dedicated May 1, 1872.

The seventh church, the Catholic, was formed in April,

1873, which purchased the old Baptist church edifice, moved it to Dell Avenue, and commenced services therein in October of that year. Rev. Dennis J. O'Farrell, present pastor.

The eighth and last church formed was the Highlands Congregational, organized Sept. 29, 1875, and which now worships in the Highlands Chapel. Rev. D. Allen Morehouse is the present pastor.

SCHOOLS.

The only school in Melrose for many years was held in the plain, unpainted district school-house, before referred to as having been sold, moved, and used as a church, and afterwards burned. It was built in the year 1800, was twenty by twenty-five feet in size, and was situated on a knoll on the old road, now Lebanon Street, about a dozen rods south of "Upham Lane." In this old school-house, Robert Gerry, who died in Stoneham, April 1, 1873, in his ninetieth year, taught school during the winter season for twenty-four years in succession, commencing in 1803. Here the North Maldenites learned to "read, write, and cipher." Many now living, and a number that now hear me, went to school in this old house, taking their turns at building fires and sweeping out. And I am told that one person, probably with us at this moment, once received a very severe birching, which he, undoubtedly, very distinctly remembers, — at any rate, if he does not, there are those here who do. The boys and girls from the west part of the town, came "across lots," passing by the old Howard house, on Main Street, near here, still standing, and crossed L Pond brook on a log. Mr. Warren Lynde says that, occasionally, when the school did not keep here, he went to "middle-town," as did probably others, going over the old road by the foot of "Boston Rock." After this house was sold, a new one was built on Upham Street, in 1828, by the schoolmaster, Robert Gerry, for the town of Malden, which was burned about the year 1845; and the one built on its site was the only schoolhouse we had when Melrose was incorporated; in it was kept a Primary, Intermediate, and Grammar School. This house was burned in April, 1874, and was succeeded

by the present new and handsome Grammar School structure. As Melrose increased in population, new school-houses were built in various parts of the town, and we now have seven,— one of which is a High School building,— in which we have fourteen schools, all in most excellent condition, with good teachers, and a carefully supervising committee, as we have had opportunity to witness in the recent examinations.

REVOLUTION.

Melrose took her part nobly in the war of the Revolution, inasmuch as many of her sons were engaged in it. Malden, of which we were then a part, was a very patriotic town, and sent forth not only her sons, but several spirited manifestos, before and during the war. Her "Instructions of the town to its Representative, Passed May 27, 1776," one month before the Declaration of Independence, is a document full of intense feeling; its tone firm, manly and true; honesty of purpose and determination of will pervade its every line. It would be highly appropriate to read the whole paper to-day, but it is too lengthy; one or two sentences must suffice: "It is now the ardent wish of ourselves that America may become *Free and Independent States.* * * * Unjustifiable claims have been made by the king and his minions, to tax us without our consent. These colonies have been prosecuted in a manner cruel and unjust to the highest degree. The frantic policy of Administration hath induced them to send Fleets and Armies to America, that by depriving us of our trade, and cutting the throats of our brethren, they might awe us into submission, and erect a system of despotism which should so far enlarge the influence of the Crown, as to enable it to rivet their shackles upon the people of Great Britain. * * * We, therefore, renounce with disdain our connection with the Kingdom of Slaves; we bid a final adieu to Britain, * * * and we now instruct you, Sir, to give them the strongest assurance, that if they should declare America to be a Free and Independent Republic, your constituents will support and defend the measure to the *Last Drop of their Blood and the Last Far-*

thing of their Treasure." So strong, forcible, and eloquent was this address, that Chief Justice Marshall thought it worthy of quotation in his "Life of Washington."

A little over a year ago an article was published in the Melrose Journal, by Mr. Barrett, entitled "Melrose in the Concord Fight." In this was given the roll of Capt. Benjamin Blaney's company of Malden men, which, on the 19th of April, went "to resist the ministerial troops." The names of the Melrose men in the company were as follows: Sergeant Jabez Lynde, Nathan Eaton, Joseph Lynde, Jr., Ezra Howard, John Vinton, Benjamin Lynde, William Upham, Ezra Upham, John Grover ye 3d, Unite Cox, Joseph Barrett, Jr., Phineas Sprague, John Grover, Jr., John Gould, Phineas Sprague, Joseph Lynde, and John Pratt. Here we have nearly all the old family names represented. There was hardly a man living here at the time, who was able to bear arms, who did not start as a "minute-man," when the alarm was sounded. The two Spragues mentioned above were father and son; the father living on Foster Street and the son on Porter Street. The father died in 1805, aged 80. Mr. Barrett says of the three brothers, Thomas, Timothy and Ezra Vinton, who lived at the Highlands and went in Capt. Samuel Sprague's company from Stoneham; "After the men had left for Concord, the women, fearing that they might suffer for the want of food, filled some saddle-bags full of provision, put them upon an old horse owned by Phineas Sprague, and Israel Cook mounted the horse and started for Concord. When near the place, fearing that he might meet the British on their return, he turned into a by-road to avoid them. They soon came in sight, and discovered him. One of the soldiers left the ranks, crossed the field, shot at Cook and killed the horse, and then hastened back to the ranks. Cook, nothing daunted, shouldered the saddle-bags, and trudged on till he met the men who were sadly in want of something to eat."

After the Revolution the quiet farm life, with the little of the shoe manufacturing element which has been referred to, went on, nearly up to the time when the Boston and Maine Railroad was built, which was opened through here

July 4, 1845. After this a new impetus was given to immigration. Some of the old farms were sold to be cut up into house-lots, and people began to come and abide with us.

FIRST TOWN MEETING.

Our town was incorporated May 3, 1850. The first Town Meeting was held May 10, in "Academy Hall;" The warrant had two articles, viz.: "To choose a moderator; to choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing." The first principal officers then elected were as follows: Elbridge Green, Town Clerk. Jeremiah Martin, Isaac Emerson, Jr. and Artemas Barrett, Selectmen. Aaron Green, S. L. Taylor and William J. Farnsworth, Assessors. Isaac Emerson, Treasurer and Collector. Henry A. Norris, Caleb Howard and Elbridge Green, School Committee. James Howard, Highway Surveyor. Six only of this number are with us now.

The citizens of to-day receive a somewhat bulky pamphlet containing the annual reports of the various town officers. Not so at the end of our first year, in the spring of 1851. The report then made is something of a curiosity; and, as such, I now hold it up before you. It is a broadside, 10 × 12 inches. It is headed, "Report of the Financial Concerns of the Town of Melrose, From May 20, 1850, to April 1, 1851," and is signed by Jonathan Cochran, Josiah W. Talbot, and John Blake, Financial Committee. The venerable Deacon Cochran, 86 years of age, is the only one of these three with us to-day. A few of the items on this first report are worth noticing. It was the day of small things and small expenses when compared with our present labors and outlays. "Jeremiah Martin, for Serv. as Selectman, $4 — Running town lines, $10 — Examining Dix Pond, Railing and Culverts, $2 — Cash paid for Printing, 14.25 — Laying out Streets, $12 — Letting and Superintending Vinton Street, $4 — Cash paid for Jury Box, and for Stationery, $5.90, $52.15. "Artemas Barrett, for Services as Selectman, $32. "Isaac Emerson, Jr., Services as Selectman, &c., $34.88." Elbridge Green and Caleb Howard, School Committee, were paid $12 and $10 respectively. "Elbridge Green, for Ser-

vices as Town Clerk, Express Bills, &c., $9.50." "Isaac Emerson, for services as Treasurer and for Blank Book, $9.13." S. L. Taylor, Aaron Green and Wm. J. Farnsworth, Assessors, were paid respectively, $13.75, $15 and $17.25.

LITERATURE.

Melrose in literature has reached a standard which is commendable, and of which we may feel well pleased.

We have with us to-day, Samuel Adams Drake, whose busy pen has given us the "Old Landmarks of Boston," "Historic Fields and Mansions of Middlesex," and "Nooks and Corners of the New England Coast;" besides his "Bunker Hill," "Israel Putnam," and other minor publications. The volumes referred to treat of historical subjects in the most pleasant and profitable manner; giving incident, anecdote and history in a very readable style. May we again and again be favored with his contributions, brimful as they are of historic lore.

Mr. Frederick Kidder has given the world a long array of historical works; among which are "Eastern Maine and Nova Scotia," "Expedition of Capt. John Lovewell," "The Boston Massacre," "First N. H. Regiment in the Revolution," and, in connection with Dr. A. A. Gould, a "History of New Ipswich, N. H.," his native town, — all valuable works, requiring much research and patient investigation.

For many years Mr. William Frederic Poole was one of our citizens, whose trenchant pen has produced many valuable papers on various historical subjects, the sharpest and best, perhaps, being his witchcraft monograms: "Cotton Mather and Salem Witchcraft;" "The Witchcraft Delusion of 1692," &c.; the "Battle of the Dictionaries," and other orthographical papers; "Anti-Slavery Opinions before the year 1800;" and "The Ordinance of 1787, and Dr. Manasseh Cutler," a reprint from the North American Review for April, 1876. The two last were written since he left Melrose.

We have had with us — now, alas! no more — Mr. Joseph E. Babson, known in newspaper and magazine literature as "Tom Folio." He has written much, and edited some volumes containing rare and interesting papers of the

English writers; among them, Charles Lamb, Leigh Hunt and Douglas Jerrold.

Deacon Gilbert Nash, a resident of Melrose many years, gave us, while here, a poetic volume of "Bay Leaves."

And we have the veteran poultry raiser and author, Capt. George P. Burnham, who has written a number of works about fowls, including the "Hen Fever;" and recently he has told us about the "$100,000 in Gold, and how to make it." Most of us would be perfectly well satisfied if we were told just how to make a hundred thousand dollars in currency!

It is a pleasure to mention our talented towns-woman, Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, the eminent lecturer and editor, whose tongue and pen champion every good cause.

The "Melrose Journal" issued its first number Dec. 10, 1870, still lives and flourishes, is a good, well conducted local paper, giving us all the items of news that take place in Melrose, and some that do not. We have also a history of Melrose in the late civil war;* and other books and pamphlets have been written by our citizens, all of which have given to Melrose a creditable place in literature.

HEALTH.

Much has been said, in times gone by, concerning the health of the town of Melrose. The unfounded prejudices of some, or the unconsidered remarks of a non-resident physician, have been quoted; and, by and through these wrong opinions and harmful inuendos, Melrose has suffered. I think this to be one of the most healthy communities around Boston, and that facts and figures will substantiate the assertion. When the late historian of Haverhill, George Wingate Chase, was a resident of our town, he was engaged in the Secretary of State's office compiling the census for 1865. His attention having been called to this matter of health, he told me that he took the tables of the Registration Reports for quite a number of years, and made a comparison

* "The Melrose Memorial. The Annals of Melrose, County of Middlesex, Massachusetts, during the Great Rebellion of 1861–5. By Elbridge H. Goss. Melrose. 1868."

with the other towns, and that Melrose stood number three, by these figures. Dr. E. O. Phinney, long a resident physician, told me, a few years ago, that he also had made an examination of this subject, so far as the figures of the immediately adjoining towns were concerned, and that ours stood the best; and that, from his own experience, he considered it one of the most healthy of towns. And I think from our own observation we can say that ours is a very healthy community. Look at some of the ages to which have lived some of the members of our old families. Capt. Phineas Sprague died in 1869, at the age of 92; Jonathan Lynde, 85: his brother William, now 83, is still living on the old Lynde homestead on Washington Street. Ezra Vinton died at the age of 63, his widow 79; Thomas Vinton 85, his wife 84; and Timothy Vinton 92. These were of the three Vinton homesteads at the Highlands. John Green, of the "John Green house," was 84, and many others of the Greens were very old when they died. William Emerson was 88, and his wife 77; Isaac Emerson 74, his widow 79. These were the grandparents and parents of our present Isaac and George Emerson. The names of many others might be given, and some have been already mentioned, when speaking of the old families, who have attained very advanced ages: the tombstones in our "Village" and "Wyoming Cemetery" attest the same fact, very many of the ages far exceeding the allotted three score and ten; all of which most assuredly indicates that ours is not an unhealthy town, but, on the contrary, that it is a very healthy town.

SPOT POND WATER.

This blessing to our homes cannot be omitted in enumerating our institutions. Not until after a very severe contest did we obtain it; but it is ours to-day, and it would take a large sum of money to purchase the franchise of Melrose. The first action taken towards the introduction of this water into the three towns of Malden, Medford and Melrose, was in 1867, when Messrs. Samuel E. Sewall, Daniel W. Gooch, and George W. Heath of our town, together with three gentlemen from each of the other two towns, were incorpo-

rated as the "Spot Pond Water Company." Nothing was done by the three towns towards taking the water until 1869, when Melrose, after a series of town meetings, in which the question was thoroughly discussed by those in favor and those against taking it, voted to unite with Malden and Medford in purchasing the franchise of the "Spot-Pond Water Company." This action was duly consummated, the water-works were finished and first used Aug. 26th, 1870; since which time, we have been enjoying the luxury of this great boon, of pure, soft water, for beautifying our grounds, and for manufacturing and domestic purposes.

Spot Pond is not only a very beautiful sheet of water, surrounded as it is with wild and magnificent scenery; but it has a history. It is first mentioned by Governor John Winthrop in his Journal, under date of Feb. 7, 1632. He says: The governour, Mr. Nowell, Mr. Eliot and others, went over Mistick River at Medford, and going N. and by E. among the rocks about two or three miles, they came to a very great pond, having in the midst an island of about one acre, and very thick with trees of pine and beech; and the pond had divers small rocks, standing up here and there in it, which they therefore called Spot Pond. They went all about it upon the ice. From thence (towards the N. W. about half a mile,) they came to the top of a very high rock, beneath which, (towards the N.) lies a goodly plain, part open land, and part woody, from whence there is a fair prospect, but it being close and rainy, they could see but a small distance. This place they called Cheese Rock, because, when they went to eat somewhat, they had only cheese (the governour's man forgetting, for haste, to put up some bread)." From that day to this the pond has borne the name then given it. "Spott Pond," with its island, appears on a map of this part of New England, which appeared in William Wood's "New England's Prospect," in 1634. Many very interesting items and incidents of its history might be given did time permit. A thrilling tragedy, the murder of Jacob Gould, occurred Nov. 25th, 1819, in the Gould house, on the Stoneham road, a little way from the northern border of the Pond.

L Pond.

I have ever regretted the attempt to change the name of our pretty little sheet of water, "L Pond," to "Crystal Lake." It has been known as L Pond for two and a quarter centuries. As early as 1648, according to the Charlestown Records, "Bros. Robt. Hale and Thomas Lind were ordered to lay out young Thos. Coitmore's two lots by Ell Pond, he to send one to go with them to help them." Here it is spelt Ell. This was nineteen years after Charlestown was settled, and shows us that the territory of Melrose was very early examined, and the pond named. In the inventory of the widow Martha Coitmore's estate, made in 1648, appears the item, "130 acres land at ell pond;" and in laying out the road from Reading to Chelsea, in 1653, it is called the same. In the Malden records, under date of Apr. 27, 1699, Corp. John Green, Phineas Upham and Joseph Floyd were appointed a Committee to run "y^e^ bounds and renew y^e^ marks between proprietors land: and y^e^ small peece of common land: adjoining to L pond: which was left for convenenc for wattering." It has been called Eel Pond, but old deeds generally give it as a capital L, and its name was undoubtedly given it from its shape. Now here is this pond of ours, a gem in our centre, most appropriately and rightly named. It is a good old name, like those of others round about here, named, by the early settlers, Spot, Mystic, Horn, Spy, Long, Swain's, Smith's, and Humphrey's Ponds; and, as Savage says, referring to Spot Pond, "succeeding generations have reverenced the first nomination." Our Long and Swain's Ponds were named as early as the year 1660. We have seen when, by whom, and under what circumstances Spot Pond was named; and who so rash as to wish for an instant to change that name? But somebody, nobody knows who, has given our L Pond a new name, — "Crystal Lake." Crystal Lake, forsooth! and that when there is another pond within two or three miles, bearing the same name. Whoever wishes may call it "Crystal Lake," or "Cerulean Lake," or "Sylvan Lake," or a lake with any other mellifluous title; but as for me, give me the old-fashioned, matter-of-fact, reasonable, well-founded name

of "L Pond." In this pond both shad and alewives used to be taken in large numbers, giving food to the earlier inhabitants. Fish ladders were formerly made at the mill-dams below, to enable the fish to reach the pond; and when the mill-owners came to make opposition to this method, it is said that the fish were carried to the pond in tubs of water. Wright says, that "much excitement has prevailed at different periods in the town, since 1695, concerning the passage of alewives from the tide-water up to Ell Pond, in the north part of the town. Much time and money have been expended upon this subject, to little or no purpose." There was once, before the memory of any one now living, I think, a grist-mill near its outlet, which caused, at times, a great flowing back of water, up towards the Highlands. And there are those here to-day that remember very distinctly when all of the north side of the pond was covered with a most dense forest of very large cedar trees: they were not only very large, but very close together. And many of us remember the war of "high and low water," when one party wished the water up, and another down; and the downs prevailed, causing wells to dry, and walls to tumble, and consequent damages to be paid by the town.

MELROSE IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION.

The story of "Melrose in the Rebellion of 1861–5," has been told in a volume which is in many of your homes. As yet it is the only monument that has been raised by us to the memory of the "Boys in Blue" who went forth to fight the battles for Melrose, or who yielded their all, their lives, for the sacred cause. From the record as there given, I think no one can dispute the fact that her history is a noble one: that she did what she could; that she gave freely and liberally of her men and money. Up to the time that volume was issued, in 1868, twenty-three — two commissioned officers and twenty-one enlisted men — of the two hundred and three citizens of our town who were in the ranks of our armies during the Rebellion, had lain down their lives for their country — for your homes and for mine. Since that time, a number of others who served upon our quotas have

followed their comrades to the land of the hereafter. Nor would we forget, by any means, many others, who, after the war, made their home with us, and have since gone to their reward. But recently we placed a wreath upon all their graves; upon that of the nurse as well as that of the soldier. Those wreaths will wither; but the memory of their deeds and the service they rendered, never.

Some time ago, in an address delivered by one of our most distinguished orators, eulogistic remarks were made concerning the amount of money given, and the number of men raised for the war, by the town for which he was speaking, which led me to make an examination of the returns as given in the late Gen. Schouler's "History of Massachusetts during the Civil War,"— the volume devoted to the "Towns and Cities." From the comparison then made I am prepared to say, that, so far as this grand old county of Middlesex is concerned, no town or city did better, if as well, as Melrose. She contributed a larger amount according to her valuation, furnished more men according to her population, and had a larger surplus of men over and above her quotas, at the end of the war. Take one or two examples: we furnished over $38,000, 454 men, and a surplus of 73. Cambridge, with ten times the population and fifteen times the valuation of Melrose, furnished $450,000, 3600 men, and had a surplus of 158; Charlestown, with nine times the population and valuation, $168,000, 4300 men, and a surplus of 111; and our mother town, Malden, with more than double our valuation and population, furnished $60,000, 642 men, and had a surplus of 71 men. Our record is a good one; one that each and all of us, citizen or soldier, may cherish and not be afraid to show.

TEMPERANCE.

Not always, as now, has Melrose been a temperance town. Time was when liquor was sold freely in very many places. At elections, and on other public occasions, drunkenness was a crying evil; but, thanks be to God! times have changed, and our town now is a noted temperance one; and although a license law is on our statutes, we have a temperance

Board of Selectmen, consequently no licenses are granted. And we now have seven temperance organizations in our town, viz.: the "Independent Order of Good Templars," "Siloam Temple of Honor," "Siloam Social Temple of Honor," "Cadets of Temperance," "Highland Division of the Sons of Temperance," "Loyola Temperance Cadets," and the "Catholic Total Abstinence Society;" all of which are in a sound and flourishing condition.

THEN AND NOW.

In 1850, twenty-six years ago, when Melrose was incorporated, our population was 1260; now it is a little over 4000; it was 3990 by the census of 1875. Then we had 125 dwelling houses; now 946. (I take the figures of the last Assessors' Report.) Then our valuation, both real and personal estate, was $483,446.00; now $4,452,828.10. Then we had one school-house, with three schools; now seven; and there are in these buildings fourteen schools. Then we had three churches; now eight. Then the old-fashioned "well-sweep" and pump; now "Spot Pond Water" running through sixteen miles of our twenty-eight miles of streets. We have the illuminating gas passing through all our principal streets, and in our public buildings. We have a fine Town House, which was dedicated June 17, 1874, and which, considering its cost, is hard to be excelled in beauty and convenience; on it is a town clock, the gift of our public-spirited fellow-citizen, DANIEL RUSSELL, Esq. We have a well-selected and growing Public Library, founded in 1871, now containing three thousand volumes, the circulation of which is very large and constantly increasing; a Savings Bank, in which all the inhabitants may deposit their surplus earnings. Of course we have the best list of town officers that it is possible to have, for do we not elect them ourselves? We have an excellent Fire Department, well organized. The Melrose Orchestra, whose sweet strains we have often enjoyed, we now enjoy; and may it long continue to enliven us with its melodies. The Melrose Musical Association, seven Temperance organizations, a lodge of Odd Fellows, and I don't know how many odd women!

A Masonic body, with any quantity of degrees, chapters and encampments, with a most excellent hall; a Grand Army Post for the "Boys that were in Blue;" Battery C and its Armory Hall; a Lyceum, with its yearly course of lectures and concerts. For literary clubs, we have the "Franklin Fraternity" and the "Round-about Club;" and then we have a Boat Club, Ball Clubs, &c.; also a live local paper with a live local editor. In short, I would be pleased to have you mention anything we have not in this town of ours.

We are but seven miles from Boston, with fine railroad facilities, having three depots, Wyoming, Centre, and the Highlands; and these travelling facilities to be soon increased, if the rumors concerning "narrow-gauge," "Upham Hill," "Swain's Pond," etc., ever become realities. And if there is one thing more than another characteristic of our people, and which prophecies well for our future steady and healthy growth, I think it may be the homogeneousness of our citizens. We do not have, as many towns do, distinctive classes. The interests of all are intertwined. As such is now the case, and we do not have these conflicting elements, let us do all we can to keep this town as it is; and with all these institutions, facilities and advantages, I predict for Melrose a gradual but sure growth. With these, nothing can stay our progress; and that nothing may, is the hearty wish of him who addresses you to-day.

We have one of the most prettily situated towns in all New England, to say the least; and to judge of this I do not mean for you to take a hasty drive through the town, only, even if you do go through Wyoming Avenue, Ravine Road, Lake Avenue, the Highlands, or other of our fair parts; but go also to the summit of "Mount Zion" in the east, "Boston Rock" in the south, "Barrett's Mount" in the centre, or "Vinton Hill" or "West Rock" in the north, and tell me if the views are not charming; especially from this last hill, from whence an extensive range of vision is had, — Mount Wachuset, mountains in New Hampshire, the ocean, and, at your feet, our own Melrose, in peace and beauty, up and down our valley, with its public buildings plainly seen, its

church spires pointing heavenward, and placid little L Pond in the centre. You that have been there know the truth whereof I speak; and you that have not, go, and then tell me if I speak too enthusiastically.

Fellow citizens: all of these things are ours to enjoy. Such being the case, let us all, each and every one, do what we may to further the interest of this good town of Melrose; that she may increase in wisdom and wealth; that she may ever foster religion, temperance, morality and education; that she may deserve God's blessing; that she may continue, as she now is, a prosperous, happy community; and so growing, and we so caring for all right and true interests, that he who, at the next Centennial, July 4, 1976, may perform the task I am now closing, may have nothing but *good* to say of *Melrose!* In the words of Dickens' Tiny Tim, "GOD BLESS US, EVERY ONE!"

NOTE. No one realizes better than myself, that there are matters concerning our town left unsaid in the foregoing Address, which should have been mentioned; but it was absolutely impossible for the writer, involved as he was with other duties, to do more than he did in the three weeks which elapsed between the time of the request and the occasion. Perhaps, hereafter, this text may be enlarged into a "History of Melrose."

E. H. G.

PROCEEDINGS.

On the 25th of May, 1876, the President of the United States issued the following Proclamation : —

WHEREAS, a joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States was duly approved on the 13th day of March last, which resolution is as follows :

"*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled :*

"That it be and is hereby recommended by the Senate and House of Representatives to the people of the several States, that they assemble in their several counties or towns, on the approaching centennial anniversary of our national independence; and that they cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said county or town from its formation; and that a copy of said sketch may be filed, in print or manuscript, in the clerk's office of said county, and an additional copy, in print or manuscript, be filed in the office of the librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first centennial of their existence."

Whereas, It is deemed proper that such recommendation be brought to the notice and knowledge of the people of the United States,

Now, therefore, I, Ulysses S. Grant, President of the United States, do hereby declare and make known the same, in the hope that the object of such resolution may meet the approval of the people of the United States, and that proper steps may be taken to carry the same into effect.

Given under my hand at the city of Washington, the 25th of May, in the year of our Lord 1876, and of the independence of the United States the one hundredth. U. S. GRANT.

By the President.

HAMILTON FISH, *Secretary of State.*

On the 6th of June, at a regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Messrs. WALTER BABB, HENRY G. FIELDS and NATHAN D. BLAKE, the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee, with full power, to arrange for the Celebration in accordance with the above Proclamation: Messrs. GEORGE F. STONE, WILLIAM L. WILLIAMS, JOSEPH D. WILDE, HENRY G. FIELDS, W. IRVING

Ellis, Artemus Barrett, Levi S. Gould, John W. Farwell, John O. Norris, Charles C. Barry, George E. Carr, George Emerson, and Elbridge H. Goss. This Committee held its first meeting in the Selectmen's Room, June 12th. Mr. Stone not being able to serve on the Committee, resigned, and it was then organized as follows: J. D. Wilde, Chairman; J. W. Farwell, Secretary; and C. C. Barry, Treasurer; and the following gentlemen were added to the Committee: Messrs. Walter Babb, Nathan D. Blake, Thomas J. Kimball, Samuel A. Drake, Frank A. Messenger, Horatio N. Perkins, Moses S. Page, and Clark B. Baldwin. The various Sub-Committees were appointed as follows: Finance, Messrs. Ellis, Kimball, Carr and Blake; Music, Messrs. Emerson, Norris, Fields and Carr; Decorations, Messrs. Wilde, Williams and Farwell; Invitations to Representatives of the Old Families, Messrs. Gould and Barrett; Printing and Programme, Messrs. Drake, Babb, Williams, Carr and Emerson; Regatta, C. C. Barry; Base-Ball Match, Messrs. Blake and Babb; Invitations to Clergymen, W. L. Williams; Croquet Match, W. L. Williams; Antiques and Horribles, M. S. Page.

It was voted to request Hon. Daniel W. Gooch to act as President of the Day, Mr. George E. Munroe to read the Declaration of Independence, and Mr. Elbridge H. Goss to prepare a historical sketch of the town. Various other meetings of the Committee were held, and all the necessary steps taken to have what proved to be a very successful celebration.

THE CELEBRATION.

At sunrise, the bells of the town were rung, a salute fired by a section of Battery C, and the large and handsome thirty-foot flag, presented to the town by the ladies, thrown to the breeze from the top of town hall. Following this came a procession of the Antiques and Horribles, under the command of Chief Marshall Klaw-Hammer, ending with an oration from the music-stand on School-house Green, on Emerson Street, by Col. Much Chin. From seven to eight o'clock a concert was given at the music-stand by the Melrose Orchestra Band, under the direction of Mr. B. Frank Burnham. At eight o'clock, on the green in front of the "Mountain House," there was a match game of Base Ball between the "Mutuals," Capt. Charles Merrill, and the "Alphas,"

Capt. Edward E. Babb. Prizes, $7 and $3. Score: "Mutuals," 28; "Alphas," 4. At ten o'clock, a match game of Croquet, on the lawn of Isaac Emerson, Esq., between Col. Francis S. Hesseltine and Rev. Daniel P. Livermore, and Messrs. William D. Serrat and Frank G. Howard. Prizes, two ebony wood croquet mallets, won by Messrs. Serrat and Howard. At 12 o'clock, M., there was a general ringing of bells, with a salute. At 2 o'clock the literary and musical exercises took place at the town hall, with the following Programme: —

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

Reading of the President's Proclamation, . . . Mr. Joseph D. Wilde
Introductory Remarks, ... Hon. Daniel W. Gooch
Prayer, ... Rev. D. Allen Morehouse
Music, "The Great Centennial Year,"—Words and Music by Mrs. Georgie N. Bordman. (Sung by the pupils of the common schools.)
Reading of the Delaration of Independence, . Mr. George E. Munroe
Music, "America," Melrose Orchestra and Chorus of Male Voices
Cornet Solo, "Young America Polka," . . . . Mr. Walter Emerson
Historical Sketch of Melrose, ... Mr. Elbridge H. Goss
Marching Song, "The School Brigade," . Mrs. Georgie N. Bordman
(Sung by the school children.)
Presentation of the Flag to the Town, ... Miss Carrie L. Wilde
Response, ... Mr. Walter Babb
Music, "Star Spangled Banner," Orchestra and Chorus of Male Voices
Closing Remarks, ... Rev. William A. Start
Doxology, "Old Hundred," . . . . . By the Audience
Benediction, ... Rev. Napoleon B. Thompson

Mr. Wilde introduced the proceedings at the hall, by reading the President's Proclamation; after which, in a few appropriate remarks, he presented the President of the Day, Hon. D. W. Gooch, who made the following Address:

MR. GOOCH'S ADDRESS.

Fellow Citizens:

Your Committee of Arrangements has assigned to me the pleasant duty of presiding at this meeting, for which I tender my sincere thanks.

To-day closes the first hundred years of our national life, and we all most cheerfully respond to the resolution, passed by the Senate and House of Representatives, approved by the President, and enforced by his Proclamation, to the reading of which you have just listened.

It is a pleasant thought, that, on this day, the people of every mu-

nicipality throughout our broad land are called upon to assemble and listen to an historical sketch of the leading and important events which have transpired within it since its formation. It will make a most valuable contribution to our country's and the world's history, to which future generations will turn with deep interest.

It has been truly said, that the American Revolution was born in the primary assembly, in the town meeting. We all know that the most interesting portions of New England history are found in our municipal records; and it is certainly well, that, as a part of the exercises of this Centennial Anniversary, we should devote something of time and effort to extending and perfecting these records, and giving to them a more enduring form and greater publicity.

Fellow Citizens: One hundred years ago to-day, the declaration of the great principles on which this nation was to stand, and in accordance with which its government was to be administered, was made to the world; principles so plain, so simple, so just, that they almost immediately commanded the earnest and hearty support of all loyal and patriotic men; and yet so broad, so deep, so comprehensive, so far in advance of anything the world had ever known, that it has cost two bloody wars, almost countless millions of money, hundreds of thousands of lives, and a century of time to secure for them practical recognition in the legislation and administration of the government. God grant that no succeeding century shall ever undo or impair the noble work which the first has accomplished.

Ladies and Gentlemen: The programme of the entertainment provided for this afternoon, which you hold in your hands, admonishes me that I must not detain you from its enjoyment.

PRESENTATION OF THE FLAG.

The President, upon introducing Miss Wilde, who presented, in behalf of the ladies, and Mr. Babb, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, who received, in behalf of the town, a beautiful flag, which had just been purchased by the ladies, and was then floating over the town hall, — spoke as follows : —

When the Declaration of Independence was declared from the State House, at Philadelphia, the king's arms were taken down, carried to the Common, and burned. The Declaration ended the supremacy of England over the Colonies, and by this act the symbol of her power was destroyed.

There are many traditions as to the origin and devices of our flag, but neither the time or circumstance of its first use is definitely known. Almost a year after the Declaration of Independence, the American Congress, by formal resolution, adopted it; and from that time the stars and stripes have been our national banner, and every loyal citizen has ever looked to it with pride and satisfaction: with pride, because it has commanded the respect of the world; with satisfaction, because it pledges the mighty power of the government, whose symbol it is, to the protection of every citizen.

A few days ago it occurred to Miss MINNIE C. KIMBALL, that it would be a very appropriate and graceful act for our ladies, on this occasion, to present to the town, for use in connection with this building, the American Flag; and the ladies, responding cheerfully to the call of Miss Kimball, have procured the beautiful flag which now floats above us; and Miss CARRIE L. WILDE, in behalf of the donors, will now present, and WALTER BABB, Esq., in behalf of the town, will receive it.

MISS WILDE'S ADDRESS.

HONORED SIR:

On the 14th of June, 1777, nearly a year after the Declaration of Independence, whose centennial anniversary we are this day celebrating, the Continental Congress adopted, as our national banner, the stars and stripes in the following resolution:—

"*Resolved*, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Since the day this resolution was adopted, great and wonderful changes have taken place in our nation's history. The noble men then assembled at Philadelphia have long since passed away, leaving to us this emblem of union and liberty, to be kept unsullied and to be passed by us to the care and keeping of coming generations. All loyal hearts love and reverence it, and in times of peril thousands have been found ready to rally to its defence. In times of peace, we love to decorate our homes and public buildings, on festal days, with this national standard. We teach even the children to love and cheer it when they see it floating in the breeze, and all because it speaks to our hearts of the country we love so well, of the liberty we enjoy, and of the ever increasing brightness of that "new constellation" which our revolutionary fathers labored so earnestly to place among the nations of the earth.

In every town and city of our country this standard waves to-day, the emblem of a free people, inspiring them with both loyalty and patriotism.

> "Its hues are all of Heaven:
> The red, of sunset dye;
> The whiteness, of the moonlit cloud;
> The blue, of morning sky."

It is with pleasure, sir, that, in behalf of the ladies of Melrose, I present to the town the beautiful flag now waving over this hall. We felt that we could no more appropriately celebrate this hundredth anniversary of our nation's independence than by placing in charge of our town officers this cherished symbol of freedom. I would, therefore, ask you to accept this flag; and I charge you to guard sacredly its honor, and see that no disloyal heart ever insults or dishonors it; and that, in years to come, it may be seen proudly waving over true hearts, and in sight of our peaceful, happy homes.

MR. BABB'S RESPONSE.

Mr. PRESIDENT:

It would be a bold man indeed who would at this late hour, and under this oppressive heat, attempt anything like a speech, even on an occasion so grand as this, the reception of a Centennial Flag from the hands of the ladies of Melrose; and more particularly after the subject has been so fully covered, as it has been, by the eloquent remarks of our president, in the introduction of the young lady who has so gracefully and beautifully made the speech of presentation.

Mayor Cobb, of Boston, said, the other day, in presenting bouquets to the school children, that the duties of the Mayor were not always pleasant, that he was often brought into contact with hard men, men devoid of principle, and that sometimes his official duties were distasteful and unpleasant; but, said he, this occasion, the meeting with the graduates of the public schools of Boston, listening to their merry voices in song and praise, more than offsets all things else. So let me say that the selectmen of even so cultured a place as Melrose find many duties distasteful and unpleasant. We often find men unreasonable; there is sometimes a clamor for impossible things, and a great deal of fault found because we perform our duties as to us seems best; and then comes in an occasion of this kind, and we forget it all. This occasion comes like a ray of sunlight through the storm-clouds.

It has been left to the patriotic women of Melrose to complete the crowning act of this centennial "Fourth," in the presentation of the beautiful flag now flying from yonder staff. In behalf of the town of Melrose I accept this flag; not in the material sense, as so many square yards of bunting, but in that other and higher sense, as the emblem of our nationality and of everything worth preserving. I accept it as the emblem of a republican form of government, of free schools, churches, colleges and the ballot; as the embodiment of those principles which our soldiers in two wars so freely gave their life-blood, and so many of whom found it their winding sheet; as the emblem which all of us, whether living or dying, have learned to love, respect, and esteem. I receive it in behalf of this town of ours, of which this day we have heard so much in praise; this town, which twenty-six years ago had little but natural scenery to recommend it, now dotted all over with churches, school-houses, public buildings, and every improvement for comfort and convenience; also represented by all the various fraternal and other societies which have done so much to uplift our race; this town, which has so many men and women of intelligence, which, for integrity and purity of morals, and for everything that goes to make a noble community, is equal to any and second to none in this commonwealth. In behalf of the town, then, I accept this flag, and assure the donors that, during the present administration, nothing shall be done that is not in keeping with all the sentiments expressed, and that no act of ours shall ever lower the standard now attained. This flag shall fly on all public occasions from this building, and as often as our eyes shall gaze upon it, with pride shall we ever remember the loyal, generous and patriotic women of Melrose.

After the reception of the flag, Miss WILDE presented a silver medal, with appropriate remarks, to Miss MINNIE C. KIMBALL, as a token, from the ladies of Melrose, of their appreciation of her interest and success in raising the money for the beautiful flag, now the property of the town. On one side of this medal was engraved a flag; and on the other, "Presented to MINNIE C. KIMBALL by the ladies of Melrose, July 4, 1876."

The Committee to invite Representatives of the Old Families, issued a notice in the Melrose Journal, and also sent the following circular of invitation : —

The Committee appointed to make arrangements for the Centennial Celebration of American Independence respectfully solicit your presence, as natives of North Malden, at the exercises to be held in the Town Hall, during the afternoon of July 4th, *as guests of the town of Melrose.* Seats will be reserved for your accommodation, tickets for which will be furnished, upon application to the undersigned, or at the ticket office, in the Town Hall, after the doors are opened.

In behalf of the Committee.

Melrose, June 26, 1876. LEVI S. GOULD.

In response to this invitation there was a very general acceptance, the seats reserved for them being fully occupied.

In the account of the proceedings of the day, in the Melrose Journal of July 8th, the following remarks occur concerning these exercises: —

"These services in the hall were to many the chief enjoyment of the day. The spirited, patriotic introductory address by our honored townsmen, D. W. Gooch, the singing of "America," the sweet voices of the children, the fervent prayer by the Rev. Mr. Morehouse, the history of our beautiful town, and, lastly, the singing of "Old Hundred" by so many voices, all made an impressive service, which will mark the day as one of the pleasantest that ever passed."

At six o'clock the regatta took place on L Pond; the first race being between the four-oared boats, the "Blues" and the "Reds,"— the prize being a ten-foot flag, costing $10.00. The "Blues" were CHARLES B. HILL, stroke, JERRY SCAMMON, No. 2, JOHN W. ROBSON, No. 3, and WILLIAM D. SERRAT, bow; the "Reds," FRANK H. DAMON, stroke, FRANK T. HINCKLEY, No. 2, JESSE A. DILL, No. 3, and GEORGE E. MUNROE, bow. The race was a very close one, but was won by the "Reds." The double scull race, for a prize of $3.00 in silver, was between FRANK H.

Damon and Elisha W. Cobb, and Albert B. Cleaveland and Walter C. Sanders; race won by the two latter. The tub race, for a prize of $2.00 in silver, was between Milledge McAlmon and Charles S. Jones, and was won by the former.

The decorations of the residences of many of our citizens were one of the most pleasing features of the day, many of the displays being very fine; as were also the illuminations in the evening; both decorations and illuminations, combined, produced remarkably pleasant pictures in many instances. There was, also, an exhibition of rockets and fireworks in different parts of the town during the evening. Taken all in all, the celebration of the Centennial Fourth of July, 1876, in the town of Melrose, was a thorough and complete success in every particular; and the committee having charge of the arrangements, and the citizens generally, have every reason to feel satisfied with the result of their united labors.

At the final meeting of the committee of arrangements, it was voted that its records be deposited with the town clerk, and that he be requested to make such entry of the celebration on the town records as he deemed necessary; and there being a small balance of money in the treasury, it was voted to deposit six dollars in the Melrose Savings Bank, principal and interest to be held until Melrose shall celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of its incorporation, May 3, 1950: said sum to be added to the $1.50 now deposited in said bank, in the name of Dexter F. Munroe, Treasurer, which was a balance left in the hands of the committee that represented Melrose at Concord and Lexington, at the celebration of the 19th of April, 1875.

Press of T. W. Ripley, 138 *Congress Street*, *Boston.*

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